such and such circumstances, or in bodies so modified.

And now we are not ignorant, that some will be ready to condemn this whole labour of our's, and of others in this kindj against Atheism, as altogether useless and superfluous; upon this pretence, that an Atheist is a mere chimera, and there is no such a thing any where to be found in the world. And indeed we could heartily wish, upon that condition, that all this labour of our'swere superfluous and useless. But as to Atheists, these so confident exploders of them are both unskilled in the monuments of antiquity, and unacquainted with the present age they live in; others having found too great an assurance, from their own personal converse, of the reality of them. Nevertheless, this labour of our's is not intended only for the conversion of downright and professed Atheists (of which there is but little hope, they being sunk into so great a degree of sottishness), but for the confirmation of weak, staggering, and sceptical Theists. And unless these exploders of Atheists will affirm, also, that all men have constantly an unshaken faith, and belief of the existence of a God, without the least mixture of a doubtful distrust or hesitancy (which, if it were so, the world could not possibly be so bad as now it is), they must needs grant, such'endeavours as these, for the confirming and establishing of men's minds in the belief of a God, by philosophic reasons, in an age so philosophical, not to be superfluous and useless*